

1100.2 - Statistics Victoria, Mar 2009

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 17/04/2009

Summary

Contents

What's happening in Victoria



Includes: Introducing Mary Cavar as new VSAF chair; National Regional Profile; Life expectancy at birth; Comparing unemployment and the claimant count; Jobless families; Review of Labour Force Survey design; Measuring the Progress of Australian Communities: Community Indicators Summit, Brisbane, July 2009; New survey - Creative Participation in Selected Cultural Activities; October 2009 Household Water and Energy Use and Conservation; Australian Statistical Geography Standard Review - Proposed SA2 boundaries for Victoria; ABS Victoria planning for the 2011 Census, What shape is your data in? Healthy habits for data managers.

Recent releases



Includes: **Selected releases** of ABS publications; **Information papers, research papers, and classifications**; and **Other releases** for the period January to March 2009.

ABS Statistical training and information seminars



Includes: **A listing of ABS statistical training courses and information seminars** available in Victoria.

Points of contact



Includes: **Contact points for ABS in Victoria, subscription information, and Victorian Statistics Advisory Forum departmental representatives.**

What's happening

What's happening

Introducing Mary Cavar as new VSAF chair

The Victorian Statistical Advisory Forum (VSAF) welcomes Mary Cavar as its new Chair. Mary chaired the first VSAF meeting on 7 April 2009. She is currently an Assistant Director in the Economic & Financial Policy Division of Department of Treasury & Finance (DTF), Victoria. She is responsible for macroeconomic forecasting and fiscal strategy. This role involves significant use of economic and public finance statistics. Mary has been in this role for about three years, and prior to joining DTF worked for the Reserve Bank of Australia in their Economic Analysis Department. Mary has a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) degree from University of Melbourne, and is currently half way through an Executive Masters of

Public Administration from the Australian & New Zealand School of Government. We look forward to working with Mary, to ensure that VSAF continues to play a central role in the engagement model between ABS and Victorian State Government.

National Regional Profile

The National Regional Profile (NRP) presents a range of data for various types of small area regions across Australia. Data are available for Local Government Areas, Statistical Local Areas and other larger geographies. The NRP is intended for users interested in the characteristics of regions and in comparing regions across Australia. Data are presented as a five year time series, where available.

Life expectancy at birth

Some highlights of life expectancy at birth for people born in Victoria during 2002-06 include:

- boys had a life expectancy of 79.3 years,
- girls had a life expectancy of 84.0 years,
- the highest life expectancy for a male was in Nilumbik Local Government Area (82.8 years) and the lowest in Loddon (74.4 years), and
- the highest life expectancy for a female was in Melbourne (C) (87.9 years) and the lowest in Glenelg and Hepburn (both 81.5 years).

More information about life expectancy at birth is presented in the December quarter 2008 issue of 'State and Regional Indicators, Victoria' (cat. no. 1367.2), using data sourced from the Department of Human Services, Victoria. This publication contains Victorian data on a wide variety of subjects, with some data at LGA level.

For further information contact Mizan Laskar on (03) 9615 7806 or email <victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au>

Comparing unemployment and the claimant count

A number of sources of useful information exist to inform analysts about people without work and people receiving assistance to enter the labour force. ABS's monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) has provided the official measure for employment and unemployment since February 1978, using definitions recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Another important source of data is compiled by the federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and relates to a count of Labour Market Payment (LMP) recipients. Comparisons are sometimes made between the official unemployment estimates produced by ABS and the claimant count produced by DEEWR. While both series have tended to move broadly in line with each other over time, the two measures differ in many ways.

A feature article in 'Australian Labour Market Statistics, Jan 2009' (cat no 6105.0) 'Comparing unemployment and the claimant count' explores key differences between the two measures. In 2007, there were an estimated 478,300 unemployed people compared with 321,800 job seekers receiving labour market payments.

[Back to top](#)

Jobless families

Also in 'Australian Labour Market Statistics, Jan 2009' was an article on jobless families.

Using the measure 'parent/s not employed', 12% of all families with children under 15 years are jobless, while 44% of lone parent families and 4% of couple families are jobless. There are more couple families (1,797,800) in Australia than lone parent families (459,500); however, there are more jobless lone parent families (203,700) than jobless couple families (74,800).

Review of Labour Force Survey design

ABS is currently conducting a review of the Labour Force Survey, including survey outputs, survey rotation pattern, and survey design. This review has been prompted by quality limitations of some of the more detailed survey data. This review will explore the possibility of releasing key aggregate data monthly, and remaining data on a quarterly basis. This would allow ABS to reduce the number of products currently being released, while still producing high quality estimates for key series.

Before undertaking any changes, ABS will be producing a discussion paper in the next few months, which will consider different output strategies. The paper's aim is to generate discussion among clients as part of the consultation process. If you are interested in the changes being proposed and would like a copy of the discussion paper, please contact us on (02) 6252 7206 or email <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

Measuring the Progress of Australian Communities: Community Indicators Summit, Brisbane, July 2009

ABS is pleased to be hosting a Community Indicators Summit in Brisbane during 22-23 July, 2009. The Summit will provide a unique opportunity for those interested in community based indicators to share learnings, exchange ideas and strategies, and report on advancements in the field of community indicators in Australia and internationally.

A discussion is occurring around the world about the need to move 'beyond GDP', to a more comprehensive view of societal progress that takes into account social and environmental concerns as well as economic ones. As a result, hundreds of initiatives are underway around the world relating to measuring progress and wellbeing at the international, national and sub-national levels.

The Summit aims to:

- promote a more coordinated, coherent and consistent approach to development of community indicators across Australia;
- establish a national network of community indicators practitioners as part of an evolving National Statistical Service; and
- engage community indicator practitioners with on-going development of ABS's publication 'Measuring Australia's Progress'.

The conference program will feature practical workshops to explore current issues in development and application of community indicators. The summit is being held in cooperation with the OECD-hosted "Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies". Summit outcomes will be presented at the 3rd World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge, and Policy which will focus on 'Charting progress, building visions, and improving life'; to be held in Busan, Korea during 27-30 October, 2009.

For further information use the link above, contact Jeanette Cotterill (02) 6252 7819 or email: <inquiries@nss.gov.au>.

New survey - Creative Participation in Selected Cultural Activities

ABS's National Centre for Cultural and Recreational Statistics (NCCRS) is currently developing a new survey to collect information about adult creative participation in selected cultural activities. At this stage, ABS anticipates the survey will collect information about people aged 15 years and over regarding their 'hobby' participation. While the list of data items has not yet been finalised, the survey will attempt to cover activities such as performing arts, visual arts, writing and design.

This new survey will replace a previous survey 'Work in selected cultural and leisure activities', and has been designed to fill an identified gap in our culture and recreation statistics. The survey is scheduled to go into the field in April 2010, with data available in December 2010. For more information please contact Jenny Dobak on (08) 8237 7317.

October 2009 State Supplementary Survey: Household Water and Energy Use and Conservation

In October 2009, ABS will conduct a survey on Household Water and Energy Use and Conservation, as a supplementary component to its monthly Labour Force Survey. Data from this survey will present information on the barriers to energy and water efficiency and other climate change related behaviour relevant to households in different income groups. The survey will also provide information about purchasing habits of households and whether they are taking environmental issues into account.

For more information on this survey, contact Sophie Vassiliou on (03) 9615 7442.

Australian Statistical Geography Standard Review - Proposed SA2 boundaries for Victoria

ABS will replace the current Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The ASGS will be available from late 2010 and become effective from 1 July 2011.

In creating a new Australian statistical geography, ABS aims to better meet the contemporary needs of users and address some of the ASGC's shortcomings. Regions of the ASGS, their codes and labels will be designed over the next two years. The first will be Statistical Area 2s (SA2s), as these have emerged as a key level in the ABS Main Structure. They are the level for which the majority of ABS sub-state intercensal data will be available.

Consultation on SA2 design and implementation is presently underway. A seminar on this subject was held in Melbourne on 26 March 2009. For more information on this review, contact Darren Hossack, ABS Geography in Canberra (02) 6252 5284.

[Back to top](#)

ABS Victoria planning for 2011 Census

The five-yearly Population Census is a huge logistical undertaking with many challenges such as:

- counting vulnerable groups accurately (homeless, Indigenous peoples and migrants),
- overcoming physical barriers (secure apartment buildings, snowfields and isolated dwellings), and
- finding the resources to support operations (recruitment of census collectors, access to meeting rooms for public awareness presentations and training).

A key aspect of ABS Victoria's 2011 Census planning is the Census Engagement Strategy, which aims to increase support for the Census across the community to achieve the best possible count. Over the coming year, ABS staff will be visiting various parts of Victoria to gather local intelligence and share ideas for addressing challenges in field collection. We will be seeking opportunities to work with organisations and community groups to progress this strategy.

In addition, a small team from ABS Victoria will be examining state geography as part of the design of Census collector workloads from mid-2009. This team may be in contact with various government agency planning areas, real estate companies, property developers and other holders of information to discuss recent building approvals, land developments and other impacts on dwelling counts.

Census data play a central role in determining funding allocations to local governments and is an important resource for planning carried out by governments, organisations and individuals. ABS contact with local representatives in Victoria will help produce statistics that are accurate and paint a clear picture of communities.

For further information contact Lana Condie on (03) 9615 7520 or email victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au. Link to Census Engagement brochure.

What shape is your data in? Healthy habits for data managers

The 2009 National Statistical Seminar Series kicked off in early March with ABS's Simon Wall explaining the value of metadata in statistical collections and achieving business outcomes. 'Keeping your data in good shape: Healthy habits for Australia's statistical resources' was delivered to an audience of around 60 members of the National Statistical Service (NSS) community representing numerous government departments. The seminar, followed by a panel discussion, covered what some organisations have been doing to realise the benefits of metadata management, how metadata management has helped achieve business goals, and the impact on business. These real-world case studies were accompanied by an introduction to some simple principles for success.

The presentation forms part of a larger body of work being done by NSS Leadership Branch (ABS) to make statistical concepts, like metadata, simple and easy to understand. Data fitness is increasingly important for data managers because maintaining data value ensures that, for example, data has the ability to be repurposed. Access the case studies and principles here. For more information about future presentations and the NSS generally, contact Laura Neill on (02) 6252 6695, email [<inquiries@nss.gov.au>](mailto:inquiries@nss.gov.au).

[Back to top](#)

Recent releases

Recent releases

Selected releases

Information papers, research papers, and classifications

Other releases

Selected releases

1136.0 A Directory of Education and Training Statistics, 2009. Released 24/03/2009

This directory is a guide to the range of national statistical resources available relating to

education and training activity in Australia. It is designed to assist users identify publicly available data collections, related publications, and other data releases. The directory covers all recent national ABS statistical collections which have education and training as a direct focus. It also includes a range of other national ABS data collections where the primary focus is not education and training, but which contain data relevant to education and training. Also included are national statistical collections and various publications or statistical series from non-ABS sources that analysts may find useful.

1329.0 Australian Wine and Grape Industry, 2008. Released 29/01/2009. Re-Issue

There were 1.8 million tonnes of grapes crushed in Australia during 2007-08, an increase of 0.4 million tonnes (31.1%) on the previous year. This was achieved on an area of grape bearing vines that rose 1.4% to 166 thousand hectares in 2007-08. Yields rose 26.9% to 11.8 tonnes per hectare in 2007-08.

Beverage wine production also showed an increase, rising 28.5% to 1.3 billion litres. In contrast, exports of Australian produced wine fell 9.2% to 715 million litres, and domestic sales of Australian wine also dropped by 4.8% to 426 million litres. The result of these movements was an increase in inventory values of 5% from 1.8 billion litres in 2006-07 to 1.9 billion litres in 2007-08. Imports of wine into Australia also rose in 2007-08 by 55.6% to 53 million litres.

2070.0 A Picture of the Nation: the Statistician's Report on the 2006 Census, 2006.

Released 29/01/2009. First Issue

Take a new look at our society with this rich source of 2006 Census information. This report gives a detailed insight into our culture and peoples, providing us with exciting new ways of looking at Australia. 'A Picture of the Nation' has analysed the latest ABS Census data and identified emerging differences and similarities between the five age-based generation groups of; Oldest (aged 80+), Lucky (60 to 79), Baby Boomers (40 to 59), Gen X and Y (20 to 39) and the iGeneration (0 to 19).

Analysis has shown that four out of five members of the Oldest Generation were affiliated with a Christian religion. In Generation X and Y more women (28%) than men (21%) hold a bachelor degree or higher. While the report takes a detailed look at generational trends, it has also captured emerging trends within life-cycle groups such as working mothers, migrants, empty nesters, people with a need for assistance, and many more.

The report also backs up something increasingly obvious in our society, the continual increase in young adults (aged 20-29) staying at home living with their parents; jumping from 24% in 1986 to 31% in 2006. This trend is associated with young people's increasing participation in education, and delay in partnering and parenthood.

While a larger proportion of people in their early 20s lived with parents than people in their late 20s, the late 20s group increased at a faster rate. In 1986, 37% of 20–24 year olds were living with at least one parent, compared with 44% in 2006. Among 25–29 year olds, 11% lived with their parents in 1986, compared with 17% in 2006.

It also covers: changes to families and living arrangements, commuting to work, skills shortages, and second generation Australians. Each successive generation is more likely to live in a city and hold a university qualification, but less likely to report religious beliefs. Findings include:

- At the 1911 Census, 42% of the population were living in rural areas. By 2006, only 12% of Australians were located in rural areas, while just over three quarters (77%)

were in towns and cities within 50 km of the coast.

- Between 2001 and 2006, 43% of people aged 5 and over in Australia had changed their residential location.
- Between 1986 to 2006 the number of people working part-time more than doubled, from 1.2 million to 2.7 million.

For a unique look into contemporary Australian society you can't go past this invaluable statistical reference. To purchase your copy of 'A Picture of the Nation' (\$25.00) phone 1300 135 070.

3101.0 Australian Demographic Statistics, Sep 2008. Released 18/03/2009

Australia's population grew by 1.8% during the 12 months ended 30 September 2008. Natural increase and net overseas migration contributed 39% and 61% respectively to this total population growth. All states and territories experienced positive population growth, with Western Australia recording the largest percentage gain (2.9%) and Tasmania the smallest (0.9%).

The preliminary estimated resident population (ERP) of Australia at 30 September 2008 was 21,542,000 persons, an increase of 389,000 persons (1.8%) since 30 September 2007. Preliminary natural increase (153,400) recorded for year ended 30 September 2008 was 12,300 persons (8.7%) higher than the natural increase recorded for 2007 (141,100). Preliminary net overseas migration for the year was 235,900 persons.

At 30 September 2008, Victoria's estimated resident population was 5,340,300, an annual increase of 97,000 (1.8%). Net overseas migration was the major driver of population growth in Victoria, accounting for 62,700 persons (64.6%). Victoria had negative net interstate migration (-2,400 persons).

3401.0 Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia, Jan 2009. Released 06/03/2009

During January 2009 in seasonally adjusted terms, short-term visitor arrivals (446,800 movements) decreased 3.4% compared with December 2008 (462,400 movements). This followed December 2008 having a 3.0% monthly increase, and November 2008 a 0.7% decrease.

During January 2009, short-term resident departures (462,900 movements) decreased by 5.6% compared with December 2008 (490,300 movements). This followed a monthly increase of 3.4% for December 2008 and a decrease of 3.2% for November 2008.

3415.0 Migrant Data Matrices, 2008. Released 19/01/2009

This product provides a link to summary data on migrants from a range of ABS products. Themes include: population characteristics, labour, family and community, health, education and training, housing, personal and household finances, culture and leisure, crime and justice.

4102.0 Australian Social Trends. Released 25/03/2009.

Australian Social Trends, a premier ABS publication, will now be available electronically on a quarterly basis from the ABS website. This publication, formerly released on an annual basis, presents statistical analysis and commentary on a wide range of current social issues. Articles are organised into eight chapters: population, family and community, health, education and training, work, economic resources, housing, and other areas of social

concern.

Each chapter is supported by a set of summary tables including key social indicators, which provide an overview of social change over the past decade, as well as how social conditions differ across Australian states and territories. A set of international tables compares Australia with 17 other nations.

4221.0 Schools Australia, 2008. Released 17/03/2009

In August 2008, Victoria had 841,580 (full-time plus part-time) school students attending 2,288 schools, while in 1998 there were 790,141 students in 2,329 schools. There were 8,841 Victorian Indigenous school students enrolled in Year 12 in 2008, an increase of 71.5 % on the 5,155 enrolled in 1998, according to the National Schools Census.

From 1998 to 2008, the number of full-time students attending government schools in Victoria increased by 2.6% to 535,159 (from 521,413), while the number of students attending non-government schools grew by 14.0% to 303,174 (from 265,987). Part-time students increased by 18.5% from 1998 to 2008 (from 2,741 to 3,247) with 35.9% currently enrolled in Year 12.

In 2008, there was an average of 279 full-time student enrolments at each primary school in Victoria (excluding special and combined schools), compared with 306 per primary school in Australia. The number of schools providing only primary education has fallen by 70 (4.1%) since 1998, and the number of combined primary-secondary schools has increased by 41 (25.0%).

The 2008 annual snapshot also found in Victoria:

- An estimated 90.8% of male students aged 15 in 2007 continued on with school education in 2008, as did 95.1% of females. However among those aged 16 in 2007, 84.2% of males and 90.2% of females continued on at school in 2008.
- In 2008, there was an average of 15.5 students per teacher (full-time equivalents) in primary schools, and 11.6 in secondary schools; compared with the respective 1998 ratios of 18.4 and 12.7. Overall, 2008 saw approximately 1 teacher for every 13 students, compared to 1 for every 18 students in 1998.
- At August 2008, 70.3% of the 71,213 teaching staff were female, compared with 67.0% of 56,632 teaching staff in 1998.

4512.0 Corrective Services, Australia, Dec 2008. Released 19/03/2009

Presents information on persons in custody and community-based corrections. The statistics are derived from administrative records held by corrective services agencies in each state and territory, and the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department for federal prisoners. Details are provided for each state and territory.

Of the average daily number of full-time prisoners in Australia during December quarter 2008, 25,355 (93%) were male and 1,953 (7%) were female. The Australian Capital Territory (including ACT prisoners held in NSW prisons) and Victoria had the lowest imprisonment rates (65 and 106 prisoners per 100,000 adult population respectively). In Dec qtr 2008, Victoria had an average daily 4,340 persons in full-time custody and 1,500 persons serving parole orders.

4513.0 Criminal Courts, Australia, 2007-08. Released 25/02/2009

Statistics about defendants dealt with by the criminal jurisdiction of the Higher (Supreme and

Intermediate), Magistrates' and Children's Courts of Australia, for 2007-2008. Defendants include persons as well as organisations (for the Higher and Magistrates' Courts only) charged with criminal offences. Statistics are based on data extracted from administrative records held by state and territory agencies responsible for court administration.

In 2007-08, Victoria had 109,723 defendants finalised through the court system. This resulted in 12,973 custodial orders (14.4% of sentence outcomes) and 76,570 non-custodial orders (85.1%). Some 8,073 defendants were acquitted and 11,339 cases (defendants) withdrawn by the prosecution. In Victoria, the higher courts finalised 2,506 defendants, magistrates courts 98,326 defendants, and children's courts 8,891 defendants.

4917.0 Sport and social capital, Australia, 2006. Released 20/03/2009

Presents data on social well-being and participation in sport and physical recreation, compiled from the 2006 General Social Survey (GSS). The publication consists of a data cube and a report (pdf format) examining the relationship between social wellbeing indicators and participation in sport and physical recreation. Contains Australia level data only.

The 2006 GSS found that over 9.5 million Australians aged 18 years and over participated in sport or physical recreation in the 12 months prior to interview, representing a participation rate of 62%. Among young adults, aged 18 to 24 years, 71% participated in sport or physical recreation. In contrast, the participation rate among older Australians, aged 65 and over, was much lower at 46%. Those who volunteered in the community had a higher rate of participation in sport (76% of 5.2 million volunteers in Australia) compared with those who did not volunteer (55%). A wide range of social topics are discussed in relation to sports participation.

5368.0.55.006 Characteristics of Australian Exporters, 2007-08. Released 26/03/2009

There were 45,018 Australian exporters of goods and services in 2007-08, a 1% increase on 2006-07. The total value of goods and services exported was \$232.2b. Some 28% of all goods exporters were in the Wholesale trade industry. About 79% of Mining commodities were exported by businesses in the Mining industry. Only 7% of Agriculture, forestry and fishing commodities were exported by businesses in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry during 2007-08.

6248.0.55.002 Employment and Earnings, Public Sector, Australia, 2007-08. Released 12/02/2009. First Issue

In June 2008, there were 1,751,400 public sector employees in Australia. There were 237,100 employees in Commonwealth government, 1,342,600 in state government and 171,700 in local government. In 2007-08, their wages and salaries totalled \$100.5b.

7501.0 Value of Principal Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, Preliminary, 2007-08. Released 10/02/2009

In 2007-08, the preliminary estimate of gross value of Australian agricultural commodities produced was \$44.6b, an increase of 24% (or \$8.6b) on the previous drought-affected year. The value of crops increased by 41% and livestock products increased by 26%. This was offset by decreased gross value of livestock slaughterings and other disposals (down 1%).

Victoria's total Agricultural commodities were estimated at \$11.8b for 2007-08. This comprised: total crops at \$5.4b, livestock products (eg wool, milk and eggs) \$3.7b, and livestock slaughterings and disposals \$2.7b. Final 2007-08 estimates will be released in July

2009.

8501.0 Retail Trade, Australia, Jan 2009. Released 03/03/2009

The Australian seasonally adjusted retail trade estimate increased by 0.2% in January 2009 over December 2008. This follows increases of 3.8% in December and 0.4% in November 2008. December 2008 had the largest monthly seasonally adjusted percentage increase since August 2000 (following introduction of the GST). The Government's stimulus package and global economic conditions are relevant considerations.

Food retailing (+1.5%), Clothing and soft good retailing (+0.8%), Other retailing (+0.2%) and Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services (+2.3%) had increased retail trade (seasonally adjusted) in January 2009. Department stores (-0.5%) and Household good retailing (-4.0%) had declines.

The following states had increased retail trade in January 2009: New South Wales (+1.9%), South Australia (+0.1%), Western Australia (+1.4%) and the Australian Capital Territory (+1.5%). Victoria (-1.8%) and Tasmania (-2.9%) had declines, while Queensland had no change.

9309.0 Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 31 Mar 2008. Released 14/01/2009

Motorcycle registrations in Australia are growing at a far greater rate than any other vehicle type. As of 31 March 2008, total motor vehicles registered in Australia rose 3.5% over the preceding 12 months to reach 15.3 million, with motorcycles up 10.8% in the year and over 50% in the last five years. The next largest growing vehicle type was articulated trucks, with 6.3% growth between March 2007 and March 2008 and 23.1% growth in the past five years. The 15.3 million registrations equates to 719 vehicles for every 1,000 Australian residents.

9314.0 Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, Feb 2009. Released 19/03/2009.

The February 2009 seasonally adjusted estimate for total sales of new motor vehicles (73 190) decreased 3.5% compared with January 2009. February 2009 sales of all vehicle types decreased when compared with January 2009: other vehicles declined 4.4%, passenger vehicles by 3.8%, and sports utility vehicles by 1.7%. Comparing February 2009 with January 2009, the Australian Capital Territory was the only state or territory to show increased total vehicle sales with a rise of 0.3%. South Australia decreased by the largest proportion, with seasonally adjusted sales falling 9.7% compared with January 2009, followed by decreases in Victoria (5.3%), Tasmania (3.9%) and Queensland (2.6%). Victoria had a seasonally adjusted 19,002 vehicle sales in Feb 2009, down 19.9% on a year earlier.

[Back to top](#)

Information papers, research papers, and classifications

1351.0.55.024 Research Paper: Exploring Measures of Low Social Capital, March 2009. Released 25/03/2009

Enumeration of the 2006 General Social Survey provided an important opportunity to explore a range of measures of social capital and see how they are related to each other. A number of the questions used to capture aspects of social capital have not been asked before in such a large survey, whereas others have not been collected alongside such a range of demographic and socio-economic information.

1352.0.55.099 Research Paper: Reviewing the ABS' Hedonic Regression Model for Desktop Computers (Methodology Advisory Committee), November 2008. Released 25/03/2009

When faced with the task of measuring prices for products that undergo rapid quality change (eg. consumer durables such as computers, whitegoods and cars), international best practice is to develop hedonic price indexes. This paper first details a review of the desktop computer price index, and then discusses how to provide a framework for construction of price indexes for other consumer durables.

1221.0 Information Paper: ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, Revision 1, 2009. Released 25/02/2009

This paper makes available the structure of ANZSCO First Edition Revision 1 to the public in advance of the full release scheduled for July 2009.

1218.0.55.001 Discussion Paper: Proposed Standard Economic Sector Classifications of Australia (SESCA), 2008. Released 26/03/2009

This paper represents a draft version of the suite of sector classifications for dissemination to external stakeholders, seeking their comments. Contains SISCAs and associated classifications, which are used in the compilation and publication of National Accounts and related statistics. Associated classifications include Public/Private, Level of Government and Type of Legal Organisation classifications.

1352.0.55.087 Research Paper: An Evaluation of Cube Sampling for ABS Household Surveys (Methodology Advisory Committee), June 2007. Released 26/02/2009

The use of design information for efficient design of surveys has been studied extensively. Well-known methods include stratification and probability proportional to size. These methods are designed to select efficient samples when there is one survey characteristic of interest. Cube sampling aims to select efficient samples when there are multiple characteristics of interest and a set of design variables could be used for improving sample design efficiency.

1352.0.55.098 Research Paper: Generalised Linear Models with Probabilistically Linked Data (Methodology Advisory Committee), November 2008. Released 26/02/2009

ABS has embarked on the Census Data Enhancement project, a key feature of which is to create a Statistical Longitudinal Census Dataset (SLCD) based on a random sample of 5% of 2006 Census person records. These will be linked to person records from 2011 and subsequent Censuses without using names and addresses as linking variables.

3106.0.55.001 Information Paper: Review of Interstate Migration Method, March 2009. Released 18/03/2009

Within Australia, there is no direct quarterly measure of interstate migration, unlike that of natural increase and net overseas migration. Instead, quarterly estimates of interstate migration are modelled using Medicare change of address data. This model is reviewed and updated every five years using data from the latest Census of Population and Housing.

4149.0.55.001 Information Paper: Defining Sport and Physical Activity, A Conceptual Model, 2008. Released 24/11/2008

Presents a conceptual model defining key concepts commonly used in survey research on sport and exercise. The model provides definitions of sport, exercise and physical recreation and examines the relationship between these concepts. The aim is to aid interpretation and future development of surveys in this field.

4327.0 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing: Users' Guide, 2007. Released 11/02/2009

This guide provides detailed information on the design and contents of the 2007 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing (SMHWB). To support appropriate interpretation of the survey results, information is presented about: what information was collected, how information was collected, and how information was used to produce final estimates.

4375.0.55.001 Information Paper: Producing national estimates from State Health Surveys, 2004. Released 27/01/2009.

Reports on the ABS trial pooling data from different health surveys conducted in individual States and Territories in order to create national estimates. It provides a background to the project, outlines methods involved in pooling, diagnostics on the pooled dataset, and reports national estimates; along with National Health Survey data for comparison.

8501.0.55.005 Information paper: Changes to the Dissemination of Retail Trade Statistics, January 2009. Released 21/01/2009

This paper describes changes that will be made to retail trade statistics following reinstatement of a 'full' sample each month.

6262.0 Information Paper: Regional Labour Force Statistics, February 2009. Released 27/02/2009

Labour Force Survey (LFS) Statistical Region boundaries are revised at each labour force sample redesign, and introduced when regional benchmarks are reviewed. This paper lists the Labour Force Dissemination Regions and details differences between those effective from November 1997.

7105.0 ABS Agriculture Statistics Collection Strategy - 2008-09 and beyond, 2009-10. Released 05/03/2009

This information paper addresses the proposed strategy for 2009-10 and subsequent ABS Agricultural Surveys and Censuses. The final in a series of three papers following a review of ABS's Agriculture Statistics Program.

[Back to top](#)

Other releases

1406.0.55.004 Managing ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs): A Step by Step Guide, Feb 2009. Released 09/02/2009

3401.0 Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia, Jan 2009. Released 06/03/2009

4626.0.55.001 Environmental views and behaviour, 2007-2008. Released 15/01/2009. First Issue

4722.0.55.005 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Home Ownership: A snapshot, 2006. Released 25/03/2009. First Issue

5671.0 Lending Finance, Australia, Jan 2009. Released 16/03/2009

5676.0 Business Indicators, Australia, Dec 2008. Released 02/03/2009

5678.0 Venture Capital and Later Stage Private Equity, Australia, 2007-08. Released 12/02/2009

6106.0 Labour Statistics News, Feb 2009. Released 24/02/2009. First Issue

6222.0 Job Search Experience, Australia, Jul 2008. Released 12/01/2009

6225.0.55.001 Persons with Main Source of Income from Own Unincorporated Business, Estimates for Small Areas - Data Cubes, 2004-05 to 2005-06. Released 18/02/2009

6416.0 House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, Dec 2008. Released 02/02/2009

8301.0.55.001 Manufacturing Production, Australia, Dec 2008. Released 17/02/2009

8301.0.55.002 Pre-mixed Concrete Production, Preliminary, Feb 2009. Released 16/03/2009

8635.2.55.001 Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Victoria, Sep 2008. Released 13/01/2009

8750.0 Dwelling Unit Commencements, Australia, Preliminary, Dec 2008. Released 19/03/2009

Main Economic Indicators (MEIs). Also released during the past quarter were a number of monthly and quarterly MEIs which can be accessed from the ABS website home page <www.abs.gov.au>. Examples of MEIs include: housing finance, building approvals, labour force, consumer price index, sales of new motor vehicles, and retail trade.

[Back to top](#)

ABS Statistical training and information seminars

ABS Statistical training and information seminars

Venue: ABS Victorian Office, Level 5 South Tower, 485 La Trobe Street, Melbourne.

Time: full day courses generally run 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

What Statistical training courses are available at ABS Victoria?

- Turning Data Into Information (TDII)
- Basic Survey Design (BSD)
- Understanding Demographic Data (UDD)
- Making Quality Informed Decisions (MQID)
- Analysing Survey Data Made Simple (ASDMS)
- Introduction to Labour Statistics (ILS)
- Valuing Australia's Environment
- ABS Datacubes in SuperTABLE (DiST)

We also offer free seminars such as:

- CDATE Online (repeating)
- Information Workshop for Teacher Librarians

Turning Data Into Information (TDII)

This course develops skills in interpreting, displaying and communicating data clearly and effectively. Analytical thinking skills are developed to enable the transformation of data into meaningful written information.

Length: 2 days

Fee: \$750.00

2009 dates: 13-14 May, 7-8 October

Basic Survey Design (BSD)

This course aims to provide a broad overview of all facets of survey development. Topics include developing survey objectives, advantages and disadvantages of various collection methodologies, questionnaire design, data processing, reporting of results and management of the design process.

Length: 2 days

Fee: \$750.00

2009 dates: 8-9 July, 24-25 November

Understanding Demographic Data (UDD)

This one-day course introduces participants to demographic data in an international and Australian context. Participants will explore the components of population change (births, deaths, migration) and understand population estimates at the national, state and small area level. At the completion of this course participants will:

- have an understanding of demographic concepts and current issues,
- understand the basic methods of analysing demographic data; and
- be able to access appropriate demographic data on the ABS website.

This course is designed for people who use and/or need to understand demographic data to formulate policies and programs.

Length: 1 day

Fee: \$450.00

2009 dates: 26 May, 9 September

Making Quality Informed Decisions (MQID)

This course introduces the concept of 'holistic quality' through use of a data quality framework for a statistical collection. The framework ensures that users of statistics are able to assess whether statistics are fit for their intended use. This course aims to provide a framework to evaluate the quality of available data sources and use this knowledge in the decision-making process.

Length: 1 day

Fee: \$450.00

2009 dates: 30 April, 13 August

Analysing Survey Data Made Simple (ASDMS)

This computer based course develops practical skills in summarising and displaying survey data in graphical and tabular form. It provides the tools for finding simple relationships in survey data and testing for statistically significant differences in past and current survey results.

Length: 2 days

Fee: \$750.00

2009 dates: 2-3 September

Introduction to Labour Statistics (ILS)

This course provides an overview of the range of concepts and issues associated with ABS labour statistics. It explores the data produced by both household and employer based collections, and highlights the range of products available to access labour-related data.

Length: 1 day

Fee: \$450.00

2009 date: 7 May

Valuing Australia's Environment

A course focusing on the emerging discipline of environmental accounting. The course covers reasons for, and conceptual underpinnings of, environmental accounting as framed by the United Nations' "System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting". It also covers practical issues associated with producing these accounts and presents some case studies, both within Australia and internationally. The course would be of interest to people requiring an overview of environmental statistics and their use and/or working in the field of environmental accounting or national accounts.

Length: 1 day

Fee: \$450.00

2009 date: 10 June

ABS Datacubes in SuperTABLE (DiST)

The ABS web site has large datasets that can be downloaded for free. ABS datasets that may use Supertable include: Motor Vehicle Census, Building Approvals, Population Census (custom consultancies), and Deaths. This course will teach participants how to access these datasets in SuperTABLE format to create tables that meet their organisation's information needs. Through a combination of theoretical instruction and computer-based exercises, participants will learn how to use the free SuperTABLE software.

Length: Half day, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Fee: \$300

2009 dates: 29 April, 12 May, 22 May, 3 June, 17 June

For further information on ABS statistical training go to the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au>. Select 'Services' then ABS Training.

For courses listed above, Alan Page (03 9615 7899) is ABS's training contact in Victoria, or email queries/registrations to <victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au>. Alan can email you a 3 page pdf with ABS Victoria course descriptions, dates and a registration form.

Information Seminars (free):

CDATA Online seminars (CDATA)

Information sessions run for State and Local Government, will showcase 2006 Census products available free of charge on the ABS Website and present a case study using free Census data. An introduction to C-Data Online and SEIFA 2006 are covered in these sessions.

Length: 1.5 hours (2:00 pm - 3.30 pm)

Fee: no charge

2009 dates: 21 April, 21 May, 23 June, 23 July

To reserve a place on a CDATA Online seminar, please email <vic.client.services@abs.gov.au>, nominating which session you would like to attend, your name, organisation, contact phone number and email address. Please ring Heather Burns on 9615 7535 if you have any queries about the CDATA 2006 Information Sessions, or would like to arrange a session in your own government agency.

Free teacher professional development day at ABS Information Workshop for Teacher Librarians

This workshop is computer based, hands-on and free. Since December 2005, all ABS publications have been available to download without charge from the ABS website, and this currently includes all publications released since 1994. We are constantly updating and improving the ABS website, and making our data easier to find. In these sessions you will learn how to navigate the ABS website, gain tips on using ABS data in the classroom, and discover resources developed especially for teachers.

Length: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Fee: no charge

2009 dates: Wed 10 June 2009

To register for this teacher workshop please contact Gai Mooney on 03 9615 7530 or email

Points of contact

POINTS OF CONTACT

ABS VICTORIAN OFFICE

There is an ABS office in every capital city. The ABS Office in Victoria is located on Level 5, South Tower, 485 LaTrobe Street, Melbourne. To email the Regional Director or Statistical Coordination contacts listed below use <victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

Postal address

GPO Box 2796Y
Melbourne Vic 3001

Regional Director

ABS Victoria
Carl Obst
(03) 9615 7330

STATISTICAL COORDINATION CONTACTS

Director
Marie Apostolou
(03) 9615 7500

Assistant Director - Victorian Government Servicing
Pam Boulton
(03) 9615 7880

Assistant Director - Economic & Regional Statistics
Sophie Vassiliou
(03) 9615 7442

Assistant Director - Social Statistics
Fiona Shalley
(03) 9615 7510

NATIONAL INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

The National Information and Referral Service (NIRS) is the first point of contact for all your statistical and publication enquiries.

Phone: 1300 135 070
Fax: 1300 135 211
Email: <client.services@abs.gov.au>

LIBRARY EXTENSION PROGRAM

Libraries play a unique role in providing information to their communities and are a valuable source of ABS statistics. The Library Extension Program is a partnership between ABS and a nation-wide network of over 500 participating libraries.

EDITOR, STATISTICS VICTORIA (Cat no 1100.2)

Alan Page

(03) 9615 7899

<victoria.statistics@abs.gov.au>

VICTORIAN STATISTICS ADVISORY FORUM (VSAF)

VSAF is a major forum for statistical liaison between Victorian government agencies and ABS. The following group of departmental representatives meet 3 times or more each year.

VSAF Chair

Department of Treasury and Finance

Mary Cavar

Department of Treasury and Finance

Peter Fuhrmann

Department of Premier and Cabinet

To be advised

Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development

Chris West

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Dr Sara Glover

Department of Human Services

Dr Connie Spinoso

Department of Justice

Dr Johnathon Spear

Department of Transport

Philip Norman

Department of Planning and Community Development

Tim Patton

Department of Sustainability and Environment

Elizabeth Thomas

Department of Primary Industries

Chris Chan

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Victoria

Carl Obst

About this Release

Statistics Victoria is a quarterly newsletter primarily targetted to Victorian state and local government users providing information about new developments, recent statistical releases, seminars, training and reviews.

© Commonwealth of Australia

All data and other material produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) constitutes Commonwealth copyright administered by the ABS. The ABS reserves the right to set out the terms and conditions for the use of such material. Unless otherwise noted, all material on this website - except the ABS logo, the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, and any material protected by a trade mark - is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Australia licence